



Nugget Creek Trail

Access: Trailhead on Kotsina Road

Distance: Approximately 30 miles round trip

Time: 2-4 days

Maps: USGS Maps-Valdez (C-1); McCarthy (C-8) 1:63,360; Valdez , McCarthy 1:250,000

Difficulty: Easy, with moderate stream crossings

Highlights: Road accessible, public cabin, great views of Mt. Blackburn

Note: Proper food storage is required. Bear Resistant Food Containers are available from park visitor centers.

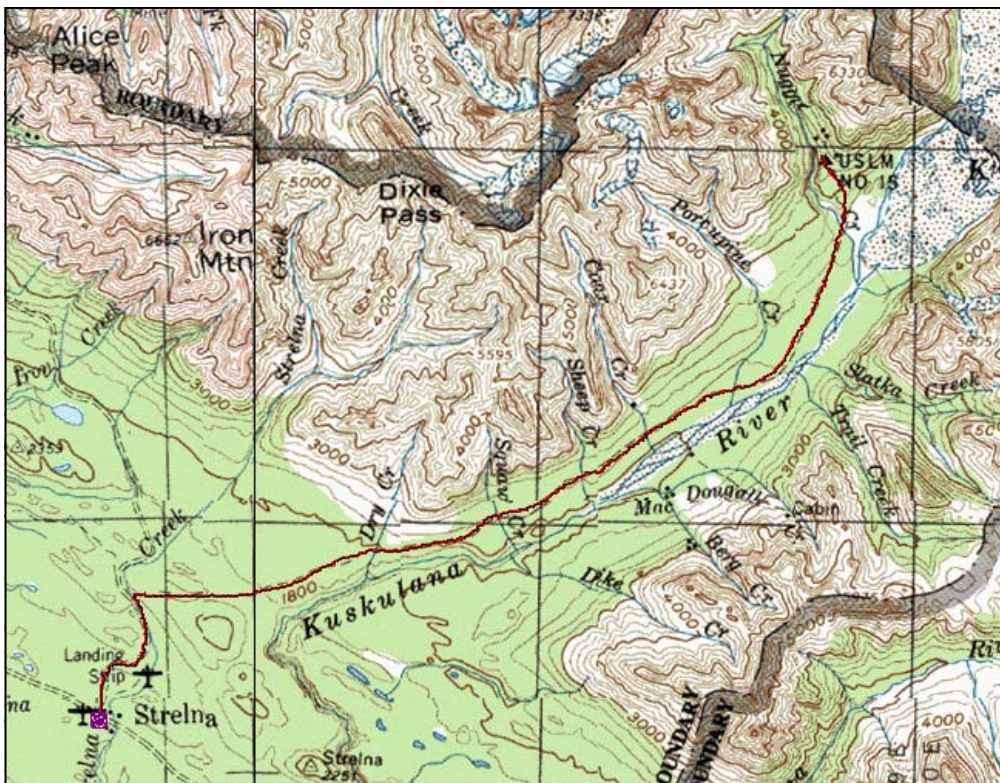
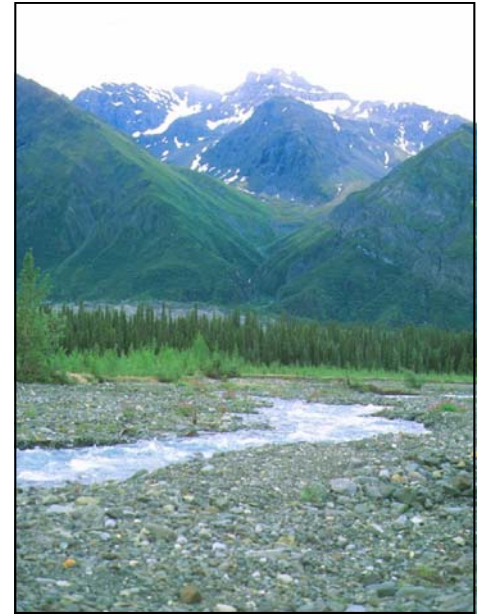
Route:

At mile 14.5, turn north off the McCarthy Road onto the Kotsina Road. The community of Strelina you pass through is private property. After about 2½ miles turn right onto the Nugget Creek Trail. This is where Strelina Creek first appears on your right. Go down to the water's edge to see the trail continuing on.

Park at Strelina Creek where there is room for a couple of vehicles. If the parking area is full you will need to park at the McCarthy Road and walk to the trailhead (about three miles). The trail begins at Strelina Creek. Ford Strelina Creek. From Strelina Creek, the trail continues northeast across a low bench area where some

wet and possibly muddy trail conditions will be encountered. This beginning portion is along an easement across private land. Please do not camp in the first two miles. After several miles, the trail gains some elevation and conditions are drier, making for relatively easy hiking for the remaining 13 miles.

Stunning views of Mt. Blackburn start at Squaw Creek. There is camping and water at Clear and Sheep Creeks. Dry and Sheep creeks are small. Porcupine Creek is subsurface. Nugget Creek near the end of the trail is the largest crossing after Strelina Creek. At very high run off Nugget Creek may be impassible. There is camping at Nugget Creek.





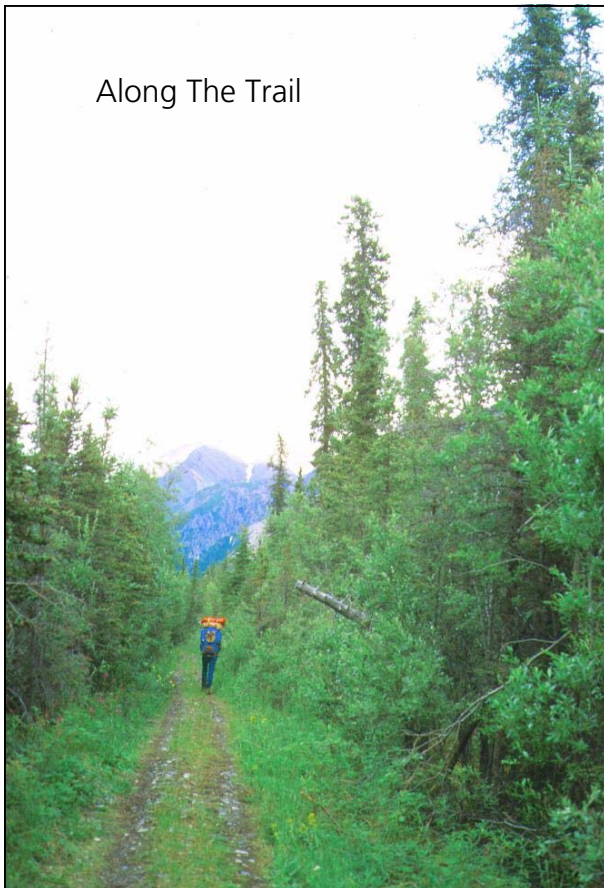
Just beyond Nugget Creek is a public use cabin. This is a first-come, first served cabin. Maximum stay is 14 days. Beyond the cabin the trail continues up the hill for superb views and alpine hiking, and a historic copper mine. You can also explore the nearby Kuskulana glacier and views of Mt. Blackburn. Note that there is also a privately owned cabin on the hill.



Potential Hazards:

- Swift and cold melt water streams may have sudden changes in water volume and velocity due to heavy precipitation upstream or excessive snowmelt caused by warm temperatures. Hikers should be prepared for various types of inclement weather, including rain and possible snow.
- Bears may be present anywhere along this route.
- Excursions onto the Kuskulana Glacier should not be attempted without prior knowledge and experience in glacial travel and safety. This is a remote area, and rescue or medical evacuation possibilities are limited and may take several days.

Along The Trail



Campsite

